

**SECRET**

OCI No. 0495/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
17 February 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Iraq

1. The new Iraqi government, dominated by members of the pan-Arab socialist Baath Party, has firmly established itself. All major army commands have declared for the revolution and armed resistance has died out.

2. The roundup of Communists continues, but the government is apparently becoming sensitive to charges that it is an American "tool", and it may soon modify to some extent its anti-Communist crusade. Bloc propaganda media have criticized the anti-Communist activities of the government, but have avoided attacks on the new leadership.

3. New regime officials have indicated the close ties which Qasim nurtured with the Soviet bloc will be loosened.

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[redacted] Soviet-sponsored projects now under way will be completed, but the regime hopes that assistance will be forthcoming from nonbloc countries so that the bloc's dominance in Iraq's development will be considerable diminished. However, it is likely that Iraq will continue to rely on the USSR for military equipment.

4. The government is making an effort to end the 20-month-old Kurdish revolt in northern Iraq. Kurdish rebel leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani has called for a cessation of hostilities

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[redacted] Kurdish leaders have told US officials that unless the new government agrees to a large measure of autonomy for the Kurds, the armed struggle for independence will continue.

State Dept. review completed

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5. The Iraqi coup has had repercussions in Syria. Anti-Nasir elements there, fearing that Syrian pro-Nasir elements will act to prevent a Syrian parallel to the Iraqi coup, are considering federation with Iraq in order to strengthen themselves against Nasir. Their agitation, in turn, tends to reinforce the suspicions of the UAR and its adherents in Syria and increase their inclination to take preventive action.

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